

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 13, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated January 24, 2006 have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In addition, as noted on the attached RCE transmittal, Applicants request that the amendments to claims 11, 12, 17, 18, 28, 29, and 31 included in the Response dated October 26, 2005 be entered and considered. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Claim 27 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1-26 and 28-33 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

In the Office Action dated September 13, 2005, claims 11-26 and 28-33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, in the Response dated October 26, 2005, claims 11, 12, 28, 29, and 31 were amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13-26, 30 and 32-33 are dependent upon claims 11, 12, 29, and 31, respectively. Thus, all of claims 11-26 and 28-33 are in condition for allowance.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-10 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Headrick (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,358). Applicants note

that claim 27 has been canceled. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Headrick, as will be discussed below.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-26 are dependent, recites a network switch comprising at least one port data port interface, a first memory, a second memory, and a memory management unit. The memory management unit is in connection with the at least one data port interface, the first memory, and the second memory. The memory management unit receives data from the at least one data port interface, determines if the data is to be stored in one of the first memory or the second memory, stores the data in one of the first memory or the second memory as a linked list, retrieves the data from one of the first memory or the second memory, and forwards the data for egress. The memory management unit further includes a communication channel and a data input section in connection with the communication channel. The data input section further includes at least one cell accumulation buffer and a slot assembly unit, the slot assembly unit is configured to receive cells from the at least one cell accumulation buffer and package the received cells into cell slots to be stored in the second memory.

As will be discussed below, Headrick fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Headrick discloses a high speed packet-switched digital switch that has a switch with a shared memory architecture. The switch may have a memory controller including an output queue for each output port. Each output queue includes a plurality of priority

level sub-queues for routing data packets having different priority levels. The memory controller routes and buffers data packets on a per port, per priority level basis. The data packet has a header portion identifying one output port destination and a level of priority of the data within the packet. A buffer, shared by the output ports, stores the data packet in a selected buffer location based on the output port destination and priority level of the data packet. The data packets are output to the output ports in priority order.

Applicants respectfully submit that Headrick fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. For example, Headrick fails to disclose or suggest that “the data input section further comprises at least one cell accumulation buffer and a slot assembly unit, the slot assembly unit being configured to receive cells from the at least one cell accumulation buffer and package the received cells into cell slots to be stored in the second memory,” as recited in claim 1.

According to Headrick, a first memory manager is provided to process cells for ports 0-7 and a second memory manager is provided to process cells for ports 8-15 (Headrick, Column 7, lines 1-6). As such, incoming ATM cells destined for ports 0-7 are processed by a first memory manager, while incoming cells destined for ports 8-15 are processed by the second memory manager. Headrick makes no mention of a slot assembly unit or a cell accumulation buffer, as provided in the present invention. More specifically, Headrick does not disclose or suggest that the slot assembly unit is configured to receive cells from the cell accumulation buffer and package the received cells into cell slots to be stored in the second memory, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Headrick fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

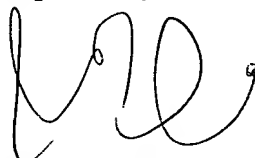
Claims 2-10 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claim 1, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Headrick fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-26 and 28-33 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time